

REMARKS

The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to five distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicants elect Species I (Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6), on which claims 1-15 (i.e., all of the claims) are readable. Having made the required election, a full examination on the merits of the elected invention is hereby requested.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that the present application includes five different species. Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Applicants note that Figs. 1-14 correspond to a single embodiment of the invention.

For example, while the Examiner has indicated that Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6 belong to a first embodiment, and that Figs. 7 and 8 belong to a second embodiment, Applicants note that Figs. 7 and 8 depict a working model corresponding to Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these figures, as well as the remaining figures in the application, are directed to a single embodiment.

In addition, with respect to the claims of the present application, Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended in order to improve the form thereof. Such amendment has not been made in response to any prior art or other rejection.

In view of the foregoing, a full examination on the merits of the elected invention is hereby requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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